

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 970

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the members of the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their dedicated and noble conservation efforts.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding organizations and their members who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated group of conservationists is the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which will be hosting its annual Troutfest fundraising event in Townsend, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, first held in 2001, Troutfest has experienced tremendous growth over the ensuing years, becoming one of the premier fly-fishing events in the nation, with attendance in the thousands; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited was originally formed in 1992 with the noble of idea of supporting the fisheries of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to fulfill this noteworthy mission, the funds raised at Troutfest are dedicated to the conservation, protection, and restoration of the coldwater fisheries and watersheds in and around the Great Smokey Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, currently boasting 260 members from ten states, the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited provides not only financial assistance to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, but also volunteers countless hours of service and assistance through various activities, including working with schools, stream sampling and restoration, annual trash clean-up,

restoration of native brook trout, and its exemplary work on the longest running water sampling and acid disposition study in any national park, the resulting data of which has been invaluable in the research and understanding of the atmospheric effects on East Tennessee and the Smoky Mountains; and

WHEREAS, Troutfest was organized as a fundraising event in response to budget cuts and unfunded mandates imposed upon the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, and over the last five years the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited has donated a total of sixty thousand dollars toward brook trout restoration, plus an additional four thousand dollars toward fisheries intern scholarships, and

WHEREAS, preceded by a large evening banquet featuring gourmet foods and fellowship, Troutfest is a two-day festival that hosts several events, featuring live music, arts and crafts from both local and regional artists, fly-fishing equipment from national manufacturers, internationally recognized fly-fishing superstars, food and drinks from local vendors, and environmental and educational venues sponsored by the TWRA, the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, the Little River Watershed, Soil Conservation, and the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, with sponsorship and assistance from the Townsend Visitor Bureau and several local and national fishing companies, Troutfest has become a nationally recognized event, not only benefitting the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, but also creating a favorable impact on the local economy of Townsend and the regional economy of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited are committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the members of the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their positive impact on the citizens of this State, recognize their dedicated and

noble conservation efforts, and extend to them our sincerest wishes for every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.